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REMARKS  
UPON  
*Dr. Wagstaffe's Letter,*  
AND  
Mr. Massey's SERMON  
AGAINST  
*Inoculating the SMALL-P O X:*  
WITH  
An Account of the INOCULATION  
of several CHILDREN;  
AND  
Some REASONS for the *Safety* and *Security*  
of that Practice.  
IN  
Three LETTERS to a Friend.

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By SAMUEL BRADY, M. D.

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L O N D O N :

*Printed for* JOHN CLARK, *at the Bible*  
*and Crown in the Poultry, near Cheapside.*

1722.

Price Six-pence.

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# LETTER I.

## *Remarks on Dr. WAGSTAFFE'S* LETTER, &c.

*S I R,*



YOU desire my Opinion of Dr. *Wagstaffe's* Letter against Inoculating the Small-Pox: I ever was only solicitous about Things, and careless of Words; you are therefore to expect no Accuracy of Stile from me. When I read the Letter, some things I met with I thought bore so hard upon Truth, I could not forbear making some Remarks as I went along; if you will

will accept them as I writ them, you have them below.

A Method so secure against the most general, and too often most fatal Distemper Man is afflicted withal, is of too great Consequence to be played off with a *Jest*; and the Facts related touching this Matter, are too strong to be baffled by *useless Speculations*, or *subtle Evasions*.

Some of our Profession, he owns, are now convinced that *the true Small-Pox may be produced this way*; Time and Experience may perhaps convince them of other Matters they are at present as unwilling to believe as they once were that, would they be persuaded to enlarge the Art by the *only true Method*, that of a just Observation. If the Practice be really found dangerous, and the Flux-Pox are produced by this Method; or if those who have really had the Small-Pox this way, have them again the natural way; no honest Man, no Man of common Sense will plead for it. To produce such an Example wou'd be an honest, as well as a more effectual way of suppressing the Practice, than that of Calumnies, or Subtilties. But to come to the Letter.

I readily agree with the Doctor, *pag. 4.* that *Physicians ought to be guided chiefly by Experience, and shou'd not encourage a Practice not supported by Reason, or Fact.* Would Gentlemen only take their Aim thence, this Affair, I believe, would be soon decided; but



but I am afraid, should we Practice only in Cases better warranted by Experience than this, our Practice would be wonderfully limited. I may venture to challenge any to produce a greater number of Vouchers for the Certainty of any Method, from amongst those on whom it has been tried, if they will except the Use of the Bark: That noble Medicine was derived from a People as unpolite as the *Circassians*, and upon much more slender Experience was received into the *Vice-Roy of Peru's Palace*; tho' it met with much the same Reception from some of the Learned, as this Gentleman wou'd persuade them to give this. Dr. Morton tells us from *Badus, Medicos Londinenses increpat, quippe famâ Mendaci, potius quàm propriâ experientiâ instructi, saluberrimam hanc Medicinam respuebant*. He blames the London Physicians, for that being guided by lying Fame, rather than their own Experience, they rejected this most wholesome Medicine. *Verissimum quidem est, (says that Doctor) non defuisse nefarios quosdam detrectatores, qui dolo malo consilium ceperunt de hujus famâ præmature supprimendâ, ne scilicet hac succinctâ Methodo, Ægrotantium crumenas emulgendi Occasio tolleretur*. There were not wanting wicked Calumniators, who combin'd very early to suppress its Fame, lest by this short Method (the Use of the Bark) they shou'd lose the Opportunity of draining their Patients Pockets. He goes on; *Hinc Medici Londinenses inexperti,*  
atque

*atque Egrotantes perterriti, ab usu abstinebant; interim Medici antiquis methodis longis, & incertis insistentes, famæ & fortunarum suarum, — agroti vero vitæ dulcissimæ jacturam fecerunt.* Hence the London Physicians being unexperienced, and the Sick frightened, abstained from the Use of it, whilst the Physicians by their old, tedious and uncertain Methods, consulted their own Fame and Fortune at the Expence of the Patient's Life. Thus far Morton.

Have the Gentlemen who have handed the Inoculation to us, *not the least Knowledge of Distempers?* as Dr. Wagstaffe asserts, pag. 6. Are there no Physicians amongst them? Has it not been tried in all the four Quarters of the World with amazing Success, at our own Doors, in the Face of the most prejudiced? Whence then his Reflection on the Conduct of the *Royal Family*, pag. 5.

If there be *such a Difference*, as he observes pag. 9. *between the best and worst sort of Small Pox*, how unaccountable is it to slight a Method to bring the best; in which, he says, *the Nurse cannot kill*, and thereby secure against that degree of it, which is almost infallibly Mortal, under the Care even of the best Physician.

He allows, pag. 10. *it would be a rational and useful Practice*, cou'd we be assur'd that *the Distemper would not be equally uncertain by Inoculation.* Here I think we might leave it; for he must be very little acquainted with  
the



the Affair, or have a peculiar Faculty of withholding his Assent, who can still question whether Inoculation be equally apt to produce a bad Sort with the common way of Infection. If so many concurring Evidences from all parts, from other Hands, will have no weight with our Author ; the Letters himself hath published, methinks might suffice.

When the *transfusing the Blood of one Animal into another*, which in his Opinion, pag. 11. stood on a more probable Foundation than this, shall be found by Experience as safe and effectual, we shall allow it to stand upon as good a Bottom ; till then, let those who have leisure and inclination for unprofitable Speculations, amuse themselves with such Trifles ; but let them not thence direct in what so nearly concerns Life. 'Tis this has brought on the Profession, the Scandal of being uncertain, whilst Men neglect the true Method of enlarging the Faculty by a just and judicious Observation. Nor let us be afraid of throwing up hereby the Inclosures to *Empiricks* ; for such only, as set out qualified with so much knowledge in the Languages as will enable them to prosecute their Studies, and consult the best Authors ; have their Faculties enlarged by the study of Philosophy, and are instructed in all the Parts relating to Medicine, by approved Masters ; such, and such only are, in the general, capable of making a just Observation, and applying it to particular Cases. But to return,



Pag. 14. he tells us, *we may be convinced of the ill Effects of this way of conveying Infection into the Blood, by the fatal Consequences of this very Matter's returning into the Blood, in the height of the Flux Pox*: What Analogy is there between the smallest quantity of Matter imaginable, conveyed into the Blood of an healthy Person; and the Quantities absorb'd into the Veins, where the Skin is cover'd with almost infinite Abscesses, the intermediate Spaces inflam'd, Perspiration stopt, and no room for a farther Discharge?

Doth it appear by Dr. Nettleton's Account, as he affirms, pag. 17. that *scarce a fourth part of the Inoculated had the genuine Small-Pox*? Strange! Where is that to be found?

Well; but if this doth give the *Small-Pox*, as he owns it does sometimes, *How shall we know*, says he, pag. 19. *the exact Dose*? *Are not the Inoculators strange Empiricks, not to adjust the Quantity to the Patient's Age*? pag. 20. Whence this strange Objection? Have the Inoculated more or less Pocks in proportion to the quantity of Matter applied? Some have us'd Drops; others, scarce the hundredth part of a Drop. Do we find the first have the Distemper more severely than the other? No. If this Gentleman had given himself the Trouble of inspecting this Matter, he wou'd never have argued thus. Besides, I apprehend 'tis the Opinion of the Judicious, and even his own, as you will see pag. 8 and 10, that the different



ferent degrees of the *Small-Pox* proceed not, from the greater or lesser Quantity of infectious Matter, however convey'd; but from the Nature of that, and the Disposition of the Patient who receives it. When Children and Adults receive the Infection at the same time, the common way, no distinction of Quantity is made; yet we see Children generally escape best.

In *pag.* 20—24. he is much at a loss how to come at a certainty in this Matter; but pretends to be very certain *the Favourers of this Experiment can never inform us, which shall have it favourably, which not.* Yet, they do, with one Voice, inform us, it always is favourable; tho in some more, in others less. It is hard to guess, what Information will satisfy our Brother.

I can say nothing to the *Newgate Experiment* which he speaks of, *pag.* 25, &c. It lies on Mr. *Maitland* to defend his Account: Those present only can say whether the Inoculated there had the true *Small-Pox*. But I can assure you, those I have seen, had the Symptoms which usually precede the genuine *Small-Pox*; as *Heaviness, Headach, Fever* and *Vomiting*. These disappear'd, as usual in the best sort, upon the Eruption; the Pustles rose with inflam'd edges; white, and then yellow Heads; and went off about the usual time in yellow Scabs. This I apprehend to be something more than the *Chicken-Pox*, *pag.* 19, 29.



Is it *rash to say*, *Such will prevent the Distemper for the future?* And do we know *no Reason*, as he affirms, *pag. 29.* Why even *those who have had it in the most regular manner, should not be liable to catch it a second time?* This, however, is generally allowed to be true, tho' some assert it has affected some Persons twice in the natural way. If this be Fact, we may so far agree with him, that the Inoculators must not pretend to give greater Security from future Infection, than the genuine *Small-Pox* receiv'd in the natural way would.

That those who have had the *Small-Pox* the natural way, may have them again by Inoculation, *has been proved*, he says, *by an Instance in St. Thomas's Hospital, pag. 1.* but he does not say those were really the *Small-Pox*. If the Pimples produc'd upon that Person by Inoculation were any thing more than those who attend on People in this Distemper often have, it had been too material to have been so slightly represented. My Servant who attended my Children under Inoculation, had such. But what then? there were no preceding Symptoms; and the Pimples run no course of Increase, Maturation, &c.

In the next Paragraph, he says, the assertion of their being always favourable, *has been often confuted by the Flux kind, frequently induc'd this way.* Where are the Instances? A very few wou'd suffice to stifle this Practice. The only two he is able to produce, are, I think,



think, denied by those upon the spot to be the Consequences of regular Inoculation. They indeed, can best answer him as to those Particulars : But the Case of Lord S———d's Son has been otherwise represented to us, *viz.* that he died of Convulsions he had been before subject to ; and that it appear'd upon Dissection, the *Small-Pox* had not occasioned his Death. I doubt it wou'd not be easily prov'd, that *Polypuses*, i. e. fleshy Excrescencies, are such *instantaneous appearances* as he alledges, *pag.* 33. I grant it was wrong to give the *Small Pox* to one in such an ill State of Health ; they might have waited a better. A *Choice*, by the way, not to be had in the natural way, and an *Advantage* in this Method particularly to be regarded, since so much depends on the Constitution of the Patient in this Distemper.

The Accounts we have of Lord *Bathurst's* Butler's Case, represent it as an Experiment out of the usual way, for which he had a Reward. There was certainly no Occasion for any in the way it had been perform'd before, and particularly on his Lordship's own Children with Success.

These being the only Examples, you see, *pag.* 35. he is able to produce of the Misfortune of this Practice, from amongst the many on whom it has been tried here ; he is forced to fly to that doughty Evidence in *New England*, *Dolhonde*, an obscure *Frenchman*, whose ridiculous Accounts certainly deserve

serve the Contempt of all judicious Persons : That in the Army (a most unlikely place) in *Italy, Flanders* and *Spain*, twenty Years ago, this Experiment shou'd be tried ; that we shou'd never hear of such an extraordinary Novelty ; that a Captain should submit to the Operation five or six times ; and that after all it shou'd be to no purpose ; are things too gross even for the writer of those Letters he hath publish'd at the end of his, to lay any Stress on. No doubt he had mention'd *Dolbonde's* Relation, had he not known how little regard was due to it. And Dr. *Wagstaffe* can't be ignorant with what Contempt it was received by those of the best Character at *Boston*, who knew the Man.

*Pag. 37.* the Doctor rallies the Patrons of Inoculation for attributing any Misfortune which happens to their Patients, to *hidden Causes, or taking the Infection the common way*. Will he say, that the inoculated may not have catch'd the Infection otherwise ? This distress'd Dr. *Boylston*, it seems, at *Boston*, but may cause but little Difficulty, since we find the Inoculation takes effect about the Seventh day ; and its much if they chance to be affected by the common way exactly at that time too.

The inoculated *Small-Pox* will no doubt Infect, (which by the way, shews them to be genuine) and for that Reason I agree with him, due Care shou'd be taken it be not unnecessarily spread amongst those, who may be  
either



either unwilling, or unfit to receive the Distemper. Tho' there is good reason to believe, a better Sort wou'd be even that way communicated, than by the common way of Infection.

But, *pag. 40. if this Experiment should not prevent the Small-Pox for the future?* Why then indeed, there would be an end of the Practice. Let him produce from amongst the many inoculated, but one undeniable Evidence that any who really had the *Small-Pox* thus, have had them again, (tho' some are said to have them twice the natural way) I dare promise him that would destroy its Reputation. But there is all the Proof given the Negative will admit of, that they will not have them again, who have really had them thus: The Practice of it from Time immemorial amongst the *Circassians*; for above forty Years amongst the *Grecians* in *Turkey*, and in the *Levant*; where Dr. *Timoni* and *Pylarini*, Men of Knowledge and Character, and our own Ambassador's Train tell us, it had been experienced on Thousands; and that the Quality, formerly averse to it, now for some Years past have come into it without hesitation; and that tho the Inoculated had ever so few, yet they never had the *Small-Pox* again, tho' they cohabited with such as had it. What Evidence more can be demanded? The *New-Englanders*, Men of the greatest Judgment, Learning and Character there, tell us, none of the Inoculated, tho' they

they attended on others in the Distemper, ever had them a second time. And even the Author of his Letters, confesseth, that *not one of the Inoculated during the space of five or six Months, has had the Small-Pox in the natural way*, tho' the Distemper rag'd in every Corner. Add to all this, that it has been often endeavour'd to bring the *Small-Pox* a second time, by Inoculation, upon those who had them before, without effect. Indeed, it is sufficient, that it is acknowledged the true *Small-Pox* are produc'd this way; and then sure they have all the Security can be expected. But let us see what he brings against this.

Pag. 41. *it seems contradicted* (modestly express'd) *in the Case of Mr. Degrave's Daughter*, who had the Inoculation perform'd upon her, and thence Eruptions (which her Parents affirm'd were) somewhat like a *Rash*; and which, he says, *the Inoculator call'd the Small-Pox*, and assur'd them *she was secur'd from ever having it again*. However, some Time after the Doctor saw her down in the true distinct Sort: And one Example of this kind is sufficient to him. An Example of what? Of one who had a *Rash*, and the *Small-Pox* after. This is the Case as himself hath put it; for the Inoculator, in his Opinion, was mistaken, and wrongfully call'd a *Rash* the *Small-Pox*: and that is all is prov'd by this Example. How short then doth his Conclusion fall, pag. 43. that *it is plain from this Case, 'tis*



*no Preventive*, where it really doth produce the *Small-Pox*: which, from what I have observed, I believe it very rarely fails to do, when perform'd as it ought, tho', perhaps, sometimes it may. And is the Operation for this Reason, as he positively asserts, *absolutely useless*? Are Vomits and Purges so? Or do they never fail to effect what is design'd by them.

I agree with him, *pag. 44. we ought to be cautious* whom we order for Inoculation; tho' I judge the Consequences of a bad Constitution, are not quite so dangerous here as in a *Salivation*; and yet he will own, I believe, his Argument will not hold good absolutely against this, because it may be dangerous in some Cases.

*Other Distempers may, perhaps, be this way communicated*, *pag. 45.* and therefore due Care should be taken, the Matter be got from one, of otherwise a sound Constitution.

His other Example, *pag. 47.* of the Insecurity of Inoculation, is the old Story of Captain *Hussart* again, from *Dolbonde*; the unhappy Gentleman in the Army, who, twenty Years ago, complain'd, that *he had that cursed Experiment tried upon him ten Years before, five or six times, without any Effect.* Was the Gentleman under Sentence of Death, that he should submit to undergo it so often? But, unhappily, notwithstanding  
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these repeated Trials, it took no Effect: How then comes this to be brought as an Example that those who have had the *Small-Pox* by Inoculation, may have them again? The Doctor owns, *pag.* 48. he is unacquainted with *Dolhonde's* Character; but that he might have had from Men of undoubted Credit, upon the Spot. 'Tis true, some well-meaning People among the Magistrates at *Boston*, on the first Appearance of this new Discovery amongst them, took his *Affidavit*, and endeavour'd to suppress the Practice. *The Physicians also, and Surgeons*, he says, *pag.* 48. came to several Resolutions, to stop the Progress of the Experiment, upon *Dolhonde's* Representation solely; I am inclin'd to believe they would not be sorry were that forgotten. Mr. *Dummer*, a Gentleman well acquainted with the Affairs of *New-England*, tells us, indeed very modestly, the Physicians at *Boston* were against it for Reasons not at all necessary to mention; but that mighty Truth wou'd prevail; and that the amazing Success of the Practice had convinced every reasonable Adversary, and silenc'd the most Obstinate. I think it appears by the third Letter at the end of our Author's, the Bill he mentions for restraining the Practice, was not thought fit by the Governor and Council to be pass'd into a Law.

It looks but oddly, that they who wou'd persuade us the genuine *Small-Pox* are scarce  
ever



ever produced this way, should make such violent Remonstrances against spreading the Infection thereby.

But *pag. 51.* he takes notice *the Inoculators don't agree in the Description of the Symptoms.* Pray, do all our learned Authors, *Sydenham, Morton, Freind,* and others, agree? I wish they and we too differed in nothing more material than, whether our Patients had *a greater or lesser Degree of a safe Small-Pox*; and that we could all say as the Inoculators do, that tho' some may have the Symptoms in a higher Degree, and more Pocks, than others, yet *all safe*: This he knows they all agree in.

He may also know, that notwithstanding, as he relates it, *pag. 52. the Ambassador's Son might be Hot and Thirsty,* and *Mr. Colt's Child Ill and Feverish,* yet those Gentlemen are very far from being displeased it was done: He wou'd be very little of a Parent, who wou'd not compound at that Rate, for the Security of his Child against the common Fate of the *Small-Pox*. The distinct sort are oft attended with worse Circumstances than those, and yet who is not pleas'd to find his Child have them in this manner? Nay, I will go farther, and from what I have observ'd, agree, they may have the Symptoms preceding the Eruption this way, perhaps, as severe in some Constitutions, as in the distinct Kind the common way, and perhaps as many Pocks, and Swellings after too; but what then, if all



this be attended with no real Danger? Which we know is the Case in the common distinct Sort, even where the Symptoms are severe, if due Care be taken.

Mr. Maitland, he takes notice, *pag. 52.* attributes what there was of Danger in one of Mr. Heath's Sons, to his wetting his Feet in Water. Do the Poor in Mr. Maitland's Country run about with the Small-Pox upon them, without Shoes or Stockings, without Danger? I presume they must have them then somewhat more favourable than Mr. Heath's Son had. Or if they usually go so there, is that an Argument those here, who go well cloath'd, wou'd receive no Damage by such a Practice? Where does Dr. Sydenham advise any thing like this? Is this the *cold Regimen* he recommends?

Dr. Nettleton's Description, he owns, *pag. 54.* seems a fair one of what that Gentleman saw himself in this Distemper; that the Symptoms were as usual in the distinct Small-Pox: He says also, *not one died of the Small-Pox produced by Inoculation*, tho it was perform'd in a Family, where, in the common way, it was attended with the most fatal Circumstances. And yet Dr. Wagstaffe ventures to affirm, *pag. 55.* that Nettleton's Account differs from Maitland's, as much as the Distemper differs from itself. What! do they differ in their Description of the Symptoms and Danger attending Inoculation, as much as the most safe from the most destructive



*tive* Small-Pox ? Sure, something else than an impartial Search after Truth, must tempt a Man to write thus. If Dr. *Timoni* had asserted any thing so wild, we might have been apt to believe *he was imposed on, had seen little himself, but took it upon Trust from those who, thro' Ignorance or Design, deceiv'd him*, as the Doctor expresth himself in relation to that Gentleman, *pag. 56.*

He makes much the same Work, *pag. 57, 58.* with the minute Differences between *Timoni* and *Pylarini*, Matters of no Moment but to amuse the Reader.

Tho' the Discharge at the *Incisions* may not perhaps lessen the number of Pocks much, *pag. 59.* as their Discharge is mostly after the Eruption; yet, may not that contribute greatly to the Safety of the Patient, as we observe that of *Salivation* does in the common Flux-kind ? Nay more, is it not possible, the Body may be thereby freed of what occasions the *Small-Pox*, and be secur'd against that Distemper, tho' the Pustles should not run their Course so regularly, as in the common way ? But let this be left to Time. I would tempt none to this Practice by Reasons not fully warranted by Experience.

*Pag. 60.* he alledges, *every Surgeon knows a Wound made in any Part, will inflame, suppurate, and so forth.* But, will such a small *Incision*, in a good Constitution, without any assistance, by degrees grow larger and deeper, and discharge more than many com-  
mon

mon *Issues*, and then dry up of its own accord, as these usually do as the *Small-Pox* go off? Do *Incisions* made for *Issues*, without any help, do so?

To conclude; The only two Instances he has brought to prove the Danger of this Practice are *disputed*, and those brought to prove it not Preventive are *fallacious*; I may therefore safely assert his declaiming Conclusion to be so too, since the whole stress of the Argument lies in these two Particulars.

Since I have followed the Doctor thus from Page to Page, and consider'd every thing which, as I judge, you will think requires it, as far as the compass of a Letter will allow, and have run into a length far beyond my first Intention; I have no Inclination to spend Time in making it correct, and therefore desire you will overlook such Slips as haste and carelessness have occasioned: But if I have mistaken our Author, given a wrong Turn to, or not answer'd any thing of moment in his Letter, correct me freely. As all I am more particularly interested in, are (I hope) secur'd, I have no other concern for the Success of this Method, than as a Member of the Commonwealth; but shall have my share of Advantage if it take not. I think it has not the *common Vogue*, as the Doctor alledges; therefore neither Popularity nor Advantage can lead our Profession into it; but whenever I shall have as good Reason to believe it *unsafe*, or *ineffectual*, as I now have



have for the contrary, no Man shall be more ready to acknowledge it than,

Portsmouth,  
July 26, 1722.

S I R,

*Your very Humble Servant.*

P. S. I thought to have referred you to the *New-Englanders* for Answer to the Letters from thence. You may, however, observe, the Gentleman who writ those was in a heat. He says many died of the Inoculation; but, tho he knows how material it would have been to have named other Persons, he is only in the old Story of Mrs. D——l, who, the Inoculators say, had taken the Infection the common way. The Antagonists are pleas'd to jest with that Account of the Death of any Inoculated; but however, they must allow it may be Fact; and very probable, where the Contagion is spread as was that in *Boston*.

You may also observe, how he mistakes our Laws, when he would wrest those, (I suppose relating to the Plague) to the Destruction of one, who thinks it his Duty to preserve from a Distemper, little inferior sometimes to that, by the best means Providence, in his Opinion, has provided. If the Inoculators at *New-England*, contributed rashly to the spreading the Infection, it was wrong.

All I shall farther take notice of, are his Concessions, which he owns have been learn'd by Experience : 1. *That the Small-Pox may be communicated by Inoculation.* 2. *That they are frequently more favourable, and not so mortal, this way, as in the common way of Infection.* 3. *That not one of the Inoculated, during the space of five or six Months, has had the Small-Pox in the natural way;* tho' you may observe, all Corners of the Town were infected, and several Hundreds had been there Inoculated : Very material Concessions from an Adversary.



LETTER





# LETTER II.

## *Remarks on Mr. MASSEY'S Sermon, &c.*

S I R,



SINCE my last I have met with Mr. *Massey's* Sermon against Inoculation, and am willing to follow the Remarks on Dr. *Wagstaffe*, with some other on this Gentleman.

No Man has a greater Veneration for the Clergy than my self, when I consider them as a Body of Learned Men, set a-part for the propagating Religion, and all the natural moral Duties, so necessary for the Welfare of human Society ; but if, instead hereof, any amongst them, propagate Calumny, Contention, and Opinions destructive of all this ; Religion it self, a due Concern for Truth, the Peace and Happiness of Mankind, will teach us to look upon such as the Pests of Society, and Scandal of their Profession. *I hope the Time is coming when such Venefici, such Spreaders of Infection, will be distinguished from those of the Faculty, who deserve Honour, and not permitted to mingle with them,*

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as the Devil among the Sons of God ; to use the Words of this meek Gentleman, upon the Favours of Inoculation, p. 19. One wou'd think, St. Andrew's had the *inspiring Faculty* attributed to the ancient oracular Caves, or our Preacher had got the *Saint's Mantle*, even before he had dropt it. But how the same Spirit shou'd inspire him, and the Brethren at *New-England*, is somewhat unaccountable ; for our Accounts from thence tell us, *they never saw the Devil so let loose upon any Occasion ; a lying Spirit also went forth* there, against this Method. See the Letter publish'd by Mr. *Drummer*, p. 16. But let us now look into the Sermon.

P. 6. we have a particular Account of the Distemper wherewith *Job* was afflicted. It seems Interpreters are puzzled about it ; but this Practice of Inoculation has cleared up the Difficulty. It is Mr. *Masseys* Opinion, it was no other than *the Small-Pox, inoculated by the Devil* upon that good Man. *Risum teneatis*. I would treat a Sermon with all due Decency, but it is impossible not to laugh out upon such an Occasion. The Gentleman is so serious tho', *he sees not what can be advanc'd to invalidate this ; No ?* I will venture then, so far to play the Divine, as to advance against it, and admonish him in the Words of Scripture, *not to be wise above what is written*. His Text tells him plainly, *Job* was smitten with *sore Boils* : If one could be serious with such a ridiculous Conjecture, we might  
tell



tell him there is some Difference between *Boils* and *Pustules* : But where is the Method of Inoculation, and the Symptoms preceding the Eruption ? He may consult the Original, and see whether that will allow him to call *Job's* Distemper, a *Confluence of inflammatory Pustules, conveyed into his Body by Inoculation.*

He supports this wonderful Discovery by the Supposition of *Job's* living in the same Country, from whence this Practice is derived ; p. 7. so that here is another Difficulty, thanks to Inoculation, cleared up, viz. that the Land of *Uz*, is that now inhabited by the *Circassians*. This Gentleman has an excellent Faculty this Way ; for he also lets us know, p. 23. what the *Tree of Life* was, and that by the Knowledge thereof, *the Lives of the Antediluvians were prolong'd to so great a Length*: But I think it happens unluckily for his Conjecture, *Adam* never tasted thereof, but was dispossessed of it, as himself says.

*Pylarini* tells us, *the Turks who ascribe all Events to Fate, come slowly into this Method of Prevention* ; but our Divine says, p. 13, *it is no Wonder to see those give into such Practices, who believe a Fatality* : Which reason best, think you, the *Mahometans*, or Mr. *Masse* ?

P. 14. he argues, it is unlawful, since we have no Power granted us to inflict *Sickness, and Diseases* : But I believe, he will allow, we have a Power granted us to administer *Vo-*

*mits*, and *Purges*; which the Patients will tell him, seldom fail to produce *Sickness*, and we can tell him, often produce *Diseases* also; therefore it is no such strange uncommon Practice, to produce a lesser Degree of Illness, to prevent a greater. Is this *Diabolical*? And doth it *tend to banish Providence out of the World*? It seems then, we are denied the Use of such Means for the Preservation of Mankind, as the Almighty in his wise and good Providence, has discover'd: Such Principles, I think, would better fit the *Turk's Fate*, than the *Christian's Providence*.

But he says, p. 18. *the Preservation of Life is little beholden to this Practice*, since the *confessed Miscarriages in this Method*, are *more than have happened in the ordinary Way*. Confessed Miscarriages? Strange Assertion! A Sermon too! wherein, a few Lines after, he talks of *Forgers of Lies*; such, he thinks, *they may be accounted, who confidently tell us what is impossible for them to know*. But what must they be accounted then, who assert Things they must know to be *false*, if they know any Thing of what they pretend to write about? Doth he know of any Patron of Inoculation, who confesseth more Miscarriages have happen'd this Way, than the common Way? Nay, doth he know any Enemy, who durst venture, before himself, to say so? Do not the Advisers hereof, from all Parts, agree, not so much as one ever really died of Inoculation, rightly perform'd? Do  
not



not even Dr. *Douglafs's* Letters, writ against the Practice, allow that *they are more Favourable, and not so Mortal* this Way, as by the common Way of Infection? And doth not Mr. *Masse*y know, even Dr. *Wagstaffe* himself, is not able to produce, from amongst the many now inoculated amongst us, more than *two disputed Instances*? Whence had he his Intelligence?

Whence also, has he the Conclusion, *p. 19. that it is no Security*? I cannot see from whence, unless from the other's Assertion, *p. 18. that the inoculated are secure*, and his bare Denial of it, to which he seems to direct us.

But *p. 20. it is forbidden by the sixth Commandment, viz. a Way to preserve from one of the most fatal Diseases*, Man is afflicted withal, is forbidden by that Prohibition, *Thou shalt not Kill*.

*P. 24.* he says the Danger of Infection will keep People from licentious Cities, (let the *Londoners* consider the Goodness of that Argument,) and the Fear of this Distemper will make them sober; whereas, were the Danger remov'd, and People secur'd, 'tis a Chance they wou'd be less Righteous, *p. 26.* and hence, I suppose, he would conclude, Death and Diseases are Blessings we must not endeavour to secure against, by any preventive Methods.

This, I think, is all in the Sermon concerns the Affair before us; the rest I leave to Divines: And I think it concerns such to see that Reli-

gion be not made *a stalking Horse* to every vile Purpose. Shall Religion, so excellently fitted for the Benefit of Societies, and Happiness of every particular Person ; that, for this very Reason, the Enemies thereof, esteem it only a human Device ; shall such an Institution be still perverted to the Disservice of both ? Does it leave us as little Liberty to Preserve our selves, as *mortal Men*, as some have endeavour'd to persuade us, it does to Defend our Rights, as *Englishmen* ?

I wish the happy Conduct of the *Royal Family*, in this Particular before us, has not out of an abundant Respect, occasion'd some People's Zeal against the Practice. However that be, let you and I form our Opinions only upon Facts ; and no farther, and no longer Plead for it, than it shall really appear conducive to the Welfare of Mankind.

You have here the Result of an Hour's Reading and Writing. I acknowledge my self too apt to be Slovenly, and in a Hurry ; but tho' I am without Ceremony, I am with great Sincerity,

S I R,

Portsmouth, July  
30, 1722.

Your humble Servant.



L E T.





# LETTER III.

S I R,



**I**N your last you desire of me a particular Account of the Inoculation of my own Children: As I writ down every Day what occur'd, for my private Satisfaction, I will send it you in the plain Manner it was writ, after I have acquainted you that my two Daughters are about Eight and Six Years of Age, my two Sons about Three and a half, and Two, and that they were all prepar'd for the Operation some Days before, by Purg-  
ing, &c.

On *Saturday, June 16*, about Noon, an Apothecary in the Neighbourhood, with much Difficulty, obtain'd from one under his Care in the distinct *Small-Pox*, the Quantity of scarce two Drops of Matter, which was taken up on the Ends of little Dossils of Lint, and applied to slight Incisions, made by another Hand, in each Arm of my four Children, in the Place where Issues are usually made: I had before visited the Person from whom the Matter was taken, and upon Examination, found him to be otherwise, of a good Constitution. We were doubtful whether so very  
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inconsiderable a Quantity would have the desired Effect.

*Sunday*, in the Evening, the Dossils were taken away, and Colewort-Leaf applied. *Monday*, all remain'd well: On *Tuesday*, the Edges of some of the Incisions were a little red, others almost dried up: This Day the youngest Girl had a Fit of an Ague. I should have told you she had a Fit of it, *Saturday*, in the Afternoon, and then I perceiv'd it was a *Quar-tan*, she having had it the *Wednesday* before; but being afterwards pretty well, it was not regarded.

*Wednesday*, the Issues (allow me to call them so) in three of the Children, run, and have red Spots round them; but in the eldest Boy they seem clos'd up. *Thursday*, they continue in the same State, only, all their Issues now run a little. *Friday*, the youngest Girl had her Ague, and the eldest look'd a little heavy, and dull: In the Night she vomited, and was Feverish.

*Saturday* 23, she had a considerable Fever, Cast much, and complain'd of her Head. The eldest Boy, also, vomited, was Feverish, and had a painful Swelling in his Neck: A large Pustule appear'd on his Check. The other two had a gentle Fever; but that least who had the Ague.

*Sunday* 24, the eldest Girl's Fever continues pretty high, she complains still of her Head, and is somewhat Delirious. The others are also Feverish, and Dull. The Pustule in the  
eldest



eldest Boy's Face increases : Some Spots appear on the youngest Boy.

*Monday 25.* The eldest Girl's Fever is much abated : She hath a painful Tumor in her Arm ; and here and there a Spot appears : On the eldest Boy two or three are visible, and he plays about the House. The youngest Boy hath a pretty many in his Face, and elsewhere : The youngest Girl hath also a few. This was her Ague-day, and she was Feverish about the usual Time, but it went off as before.

*Tuesday 26.* The three eldest have about Twenty or Thirty each ; but the youngest Boy too many to be numbered. The eldest Girl, who had been so Ill before the Eruption, is now free from the Fever, the Tumour is gone, and she plays about the Room with the rest. The other Girl, who had somewhat of her Ague-Fit, in the Afternoon yesterday, has a little of it now.

*Wednesday 27.* The Pocks in the eldest Girl's Face are very red about the Edges, but do not yet rise to any height : 'Tis the same in the other Girl, and eldest Boy. In the youngest Boy they rise well, and look somewhat whitish at Top, in his Face. The Issues are deep in all of them, and Discharge much ; and from henceforward are dress'd twice a Day. Towards the Evening, the eldest Girl complains of her Throat.

*Thursday 28.* Her Pustules rise, with whitish Heads, and not so red and inflam'd at Bottom, as before. The youngest Boy's are mostly whitish at Top ; those on his Chin yellow ; his Face swells. The eldest Boy's

rise a little. They eat heartily what is allowed them, have no Fever, and play about.

*Friday 29.* The youngest Boy's Face swells more, and he is almost Blind : His Pocks look more and more yellowish in his Face, with red Edges ; in his Body they have whitish Heads : He has no Fever, and craves for Victuals. In the youngest Girl's Face about ten Pustules now rise fairly, with Heads : She feels no more of her Ague. They are all brisk and well. This Night the youngest Boy is sore and uneasy, the Pustules in his Body being as big as large Peas.

*Saturday 30.* The eighth Day of their Illness. The youngest Boy's Pocks turn more and more yellow, and begin to go off in a yellow Scab, more exactly resembling *Sydenham's* Description of the regular distinct Sort, than any I ever saw before. Towards Evening his Pulse was a little quick, and he was somewhat restless ; wherefore he had a Tea-spoonful of *Diacodium*, and had a good Night. The Pocks on both the Girls have whitish Heads.

*Sunday, July 1.* The youngest Boy's Pocks go off more and more in his Face in a yellow Scab : He peeps up, eats heartily, and plays with the others. The Pocks in the eldest Girl's Face, about twelve in Number, now go off in a yellowish Scab. On the youngest Girl they continue with a good Head, and red Circumference. The eldest Boy ran about during the whole Time, and often pull'd off the Dressings off his Arms, whereupon the Issues dried up for a Time, but upon fresh Application of Colewort-Leaf they run again :  
He



He also rub'd off the Heads of his few Pocks. He is now somewhat Feverish, and has a Swelling in his upper Lip.

*Monday 2.* The eldest Girl's Pocks are pretty well gone off. The youngest Girl's continue still with yellowish Heads : No Symptom of her Ague. The Swelling abates in the youngest Boy's Face ; he sees ; and that Night the Pocks are mostly dried up in his Face.

*Tuesday 3.* They dry up in his Body : He plays, eats heartily, and has no Fever. The eldest Boy is somewhat Feverish ; and one of the Pocks in his Leg, which he had scratch'd, swells the Parts round it, and is painful ; some Matter comes from it : His Lip continues swell'd : One of his Issues is dry, the other runs. The Pocks in the youngest Girl's Face now also go off in a yellow Scab.

*Wednesday 4.* The youngest Girl's Pocks mostly dry up ; but some are still so full and yellow, as would convince the most obstinate of their Genuineness. The eldest Boy's only, do not run their Course regularly ; which however, I believe, is owing to his tearing them off. He is less Feverish, and his Swelling abates : His Issues run a little. These, in the others are filling up, and run less than before. They crave much for Victuals.

*Thursday 5.* They are so well, I have ordered them all Physick for to-morrow.

Since that, I kept no *Diary* ; but the Hole in the Boy's Leg not being large enough to Discharge the Matter, it was a little enlarg'd, and is since heal'd up. Most of their Issues soon after dried up : In two only, a little proud

Flesh arose, but of no Consequence ; and all the Incisions are long since perfectly heal'd. The greatest Difficulty has been to restrain their eager Appetites.

Thus, Sir, I have given you an artless, but faithful Relation of Fact, and conceal'd nothing. I had a great Opinion of the Practice, and thought I could not answer the Neglect of securing my Children against the too often dismal Effects of the *Small-Pox* ; and, I assure you, I value them too much, to hazard them by a Method, I had not good Reason to think safe. But, as People are so much dispos'd at present, to give a wrong Turn to every Accident upon this Occasion, I think it prudent to leave every one entirely to their own Choice, and shall persuade none to follow my Example.

But, notwithstanding the Clamour and Exclamation there was against me, Mr. *Waller*, an Apothecary in *Gosport*, had the Courage to Inoculate his three Children. This was done about three Weeks after mine, and they all had, indisputably, the genuine *Small-Pox*. They all sickned the seventh Day ; had all the Symptoms usually preceding the Eruption ; one of them, of a sanguine Constitution, severely : The Pocks came out on all the ninth Day, upon which the Symptoms disappear'd in two of them ; on the other, who was much the worst, the Eruption was not perfected 'till the eleventh Day, when she had a great many, with three or four little Patches of the Flux Kind : The eldest had several Hundreds ; but the youngest, a little Boy not two Years old, who really happen'd to have most Matter applied to him, had



had not above fifty or sixty : This Child, who was then cutting some Teeth, had a Looseness thro' most of the Time, and his Incisions did not Discharge near so much as the others. Their Pustules (especially those of the two Girls) grew large, and full of a very laudable Matter, continued their due Time, and then went off in a yellowish Scab. The two Girl's Incisions became deep, and large, ran very plentifully, and are not yet quite dried up. The Pocks continued a few Days longer on the youngest Girl, than the others : She was sometimes Feverish, and Restless, but had no Occasion for any other Medicine, than now and then a gentle *Hypnotic*. Not one of these Children has had any Tumor, or Swelling ; and they are now about, as before the Operation, very well, and very hungry.

I come now, according to your Desire, to give you something of a rational Account of the Safety of this Method. You know what wretched Work the Gentleman makes of it, who writes the Letter from *New-England*, published by Mr. *Drummer* ; tho' otherwise a Man of Learning, and Sense, and aware of the Folly of attempting it : However, let us try.

If we examine, what gives Safety in the natural Way, we shall find we have much more Reason to expect it in this. The Disposition of the Fluids and Solids in Children, disposeth them, in general, to have this Disease more favourably than grown Persons. Here, you have it in your Power to give it at what Time you please ; when the Mind shall not be oppressed with the Apprehensions of Danger, (a Circumstance of-

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ten very fatal to Adults;) when the Body is in a good State of Health, not too full of Blood, or gross Humours, a Disposition we endeavour to gain by Bleeding, Vomiting, or otherwise, when it is often too late, in the common Way. In this, perhaps, the Patient is seized by the Infection, after a Debauch, when his Blood is in a Flame, or his Body otherwise put into a Temper very unfit to grapple with the *Small-Pox*.

We generally find this Distemper is Epidemical; and that it is at some Times, very favourable, at others, very fatal. Who would not chuse to have his Chance in the former, rather than in the latter? By Inoculation, he may have it, at what Time, and from what Sort he pleaseth. These are evident Advantages in this Method; it is therefore needless to enquire into those more Occult; as, whether a Discharge of the *Variolous Seminium* may not be more safely obtain'd by a Spark thus communicated, than by an epidemical Contagion conveyed into the Mouth, Lungs, Stomach, and other Parts of a Body, previously disposed by a bad Disposition of the Air, or otherwise, to receive the Distemper in a more intense Degree. Much more might be said, were it necessary to support Facts by precarious Reasonings, to shew why a milder Sort are produced this Way, than by the other.

When that is done, the several Stages of the Distemper are easy in Proportion: But if there be wanting any Discharge by the Pustules, it is supplied in this Way by the Incisions, which usually throw off more than a thousand Pocks. You know of what Consequence a Salivation



is in the Flux Kind, the Swelling of the Face, and Hands, the Methods Nature takes to free her self from the Load which oppresseth her, in that dismal *Stadium* of this Distemper; what Methods of Bleeding, Blistering, Cupping and Purging have been proposed for this Purpose. Here you have a much more safe and effectual Evacuation; and Security against those Fevers, Deliriums, Quinsies, Peripneumonies, Imposthumations, Gangrenes, and other fatal Effects of the Matter being detain'd in the Blood, or thrown upon the Brain, Throat, Lungs, or Limbs. But after all, let us still fly to Facts, as Umpire in this Case: For Reason would no more have discovered *this* to us, than it would have taught us that the *Bark* would cure an Ague, *Opium* relieve those in Pain, or *Mercury* discharge the venereal Taint. So much for the Safety of this Method.

As for the Security it gives from any future Attacks of this Distemper: If it really produces the true *Small-Pox*, as those may be convinced it does, who will frequently attend the inoculated; if the usual Symptoms precede the Eruption of the Pimples, and these run their due Course, as they really do, with this only Difference from the common Sort, as far as I have been able to observe, that being generally of a very mild Nature, they imposthume, *viz.* have white, then yellow Heads, rather sooner than the other; and the Matter being less Corrosive, seldom leaves Pits behind; and the after Redness, if any, sooner disappears: If the smallest Number, and most favourable, in the common Way, have ('till now at least) been esteem'd to  
give

give sufficient Security ; what Reason can there be to question, whether those who have had such by Inoculation, are secured ? Especially, since it is confirm'd by Assurances from Abroad, where it hath been experienced for many Years, by Trials at *New-England*, and at Home, where the inoculated have attended others in the Distemper ; nor can its Enemies, notwithstanding, produce any real Instance, that those who had it by Inoculation, have it again ; (but charge them with spreading the Distemper, forgetting, that *nemo dat quod non habet*, they could not give what they had not ; ) and yet we almost every where meet with those who will pretend to give Instances of some who had the *Small-Pox* twice even in the natural Way. We have also Assurances that Inoculation has been perform'd on some who had the *Small-Pox* before, but produc'd it not again. What more wou'd we have ?

I look upon all my Children to be secured from this Distemper from the future, altho' one of them had it not so indisputably as others I have seen ; but should it so happen, that any one of them should have it again, I shall think myself obliged to let the Publick know of it ; especially since it has been inform'd (I know not by what Means) of the Success of their Inoculation.

By this Time, I doubt not, you are well enough pleased to find I have no more to say, but that I am,

*Your humble Servant.*